Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 20 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 21 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Jan 2021 at 03:56

Confidence: High for wet and windy conditions on Wednesday, then a return to colder and brighter conditions from Thursday. Medium in cloud and snow details from Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 20 Jan 2021: Very wet and windy with extensive low cloud. Snow on the tops later.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 20 Jan 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Drizzle	Heavy Rain	Sleet	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability					
80%	70%	80%	70%	70%	70%

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Jan 2021

Weather: Cloudy and overcast with outbreaks of heavy and persistent rain. It will steadily turn to sleet and snow over the highest summits during the afternoon, with snow down to around 400m in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Nil to 20%, extensive cloud base 600m or less

Visibility: Moderate or poor, but often very poor at height.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/25 SW	14/17 SW	7/10 W	9/12 N	11/16 N	13/17 NW	20/26 NW
600	13/17 SW	6/9 SW	6/8 NW	8/11 N	11/16 N	11/16 NW	17/24 NW
300	2/14 SW	1/7 W	2/7 NW	4/9 NW	7/14 N	8/16 NW	9/21 NW
Valley	2/9 SW	2/5 W	2/6 N	5/8 N	10/16 N	6/13 NW	10/21 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-4	1/-3	1/-2	-0/-5	-2/-7	-2/-8	-3/-11
600	4/-1	3/0	2/-0	1/-2	-0/-5	-1/-6	-1/-8
300	5/4	4/3	4/2	3/1	1/-2	1/-3	0/-4
Valley	6/5	6/4	6/5	5/3	4/1	3/1	2/-2
Freezing Level*	1600m	1500m	1200m	900m	600m	400m	400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Timings of the winds changing from the SW into the NW and easing could be later than shown in table.

Forecast for Thursday 21 Jan 2021

Weather: Bright or clear spells and snow showers, although rain or sleet at times below 400m.

Maximum wind: West or Northwest 20 to 30mph gusting 40mph with a severe wind chill.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60%, occasional or extensive 600 to 900m.

Visibility: Very good falling poor or very poor in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero to Plus 4 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 400 to 600m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 19 January 2021 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55. Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. There is a thaw at all levels with constant rain accompanying today's walk and Cumbria under a Met Office weather warning for rain until midday on Wednesday – when the warning currently changes to snow. At midday, it was just above freezing on the summit and the precipitation was still falling as rain. The main snowline is now around 750m with only patches of avoidable snow below that height. Even above 750m, large areas of the fells right up to and including summit level are free from snow. That said, a significant amount of snow remains in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly N and E facing slopes where the deepest drifts can easily swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth is the exception. The snowpack is soft and very wet. The main obstacle on paths was ice. This was found above 850m and especially on flat or gently sloping ground where water or thawed snow had frozen solid overnight. This ice was at a transitional stage in that one minute you could be walking in slush and the next step was on ice making conditions especially treacherous. The cornices that exist above N and E facing slopes consist of wet snow and are weakening. As such, although they are small, they are extremely unstable so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Although the snowpack is currently soft and thawing, for those venturing above the snowline, an ice axe is essential and crampons must be carried. This is simply because it will only take a marginal drop in temperature for the thaw to cease and the considerable amount of remaining snow to freeze. A slip on such hard snow without the means to stop yourself would have serious consequences. Goggles are highly recommended in case the rain changes to hail at altitude. For thinner ice on paths, microspikes and poles are extremely useful as will be, given Wednesday's forecast following Tuesday's rain, flippers and a boat!! Temperature: plus 1.6 C, Maximum wind speed 16.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 4.9 C, Average wind speed: 11.3 mph

Issued at: 01:56 on Wed 20 Jan 2021

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